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TO THE

READER OF THE DOCUMENTS

RELATING TO THE

Galveston Bay & Texas Land Company,

WHICH ARE CONTAINED IN THE

APPENDIX.

by
W. H. Sumner.

NEW-YORK:

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JANUARY 1, 1831.

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WILLIAM H. SUMNER, BOSTON,
GEORGE CURTIS, NEW-YORK.

EMPRESARIOS.

LORENZO DE ZAVALA,
JOSEPH VEHLEIN,
DAVID G. BURNET.



ADDRESS.

THE country now called Texas, situated on the Gulf of Mexico, between the United States and the Rio Grande, and lying principally between the 28th and 35th degrees of north latitude, was first made an object of public attention by the discussions relating to the purchase of Florida. It was by the treaty of cession of that country, that the boundaries of Louisiana were fixed; and by many acquainted with its advantages, it was thought that the most healthy and fertile tract of land in North America was sacrificed to the acquisition of Florida,—the great political object of Mr. Monroe's administration. In 1819, however, the relinquishment of Texas, considered at that time as an integral part of Louisiana, was comparatively no loss to those who already possessed more land than they could settle, and who had then but little knowledge of its intrinsic and local advantages, as they have been laid open by the Republican Government of Mexico, since its emancipation from the enthralling yoke of Spanish despotism. The influence of free constitutions and of wise laws has seldom been more perfectly illustrated than in the sudden developement of the resources and advantages which this fertile country now exhibits.

The Spanish government, so long as it maintained its sovereignty in America, not only absolutely prohibited the settlement of foreigners upon the frontier provinces of its possessions, but even discouraged its own subjects from occupying the lands which now present such great temptations to farmers, mechanics and manufacturers.

Immediately after the dissolution of its connexion with Spain, Mexico began to follow the bright example set by their northern neighbors of the United States, who, from a liberal course of policy in granting the public lands to enterprising settlers, in the short space of twenty years have erected several

states and territories, of the most industrious population, out of the region which would still have been called the wilderness of Louisiana, if it had remained under the Spanish yoke. It was not, however, until the general prevalence of those republican principles which led to the establishment of the Federal Constitution of Mexico in 1824, that the proverbial jealousy of foreigners, for which the Spanish nation has always been celebrated, gave way to the liberal policy of the free governments of modern times, which teaches that the freemen of all countries are patriots wherever their destinies fix or their interests call them. Seeing the advantage which the United States of the North had derived, both in agriculture and the arts, from the admission of the subjects of all the nations of the earth among them, and the great accession to the national strength which their rapid emigration had made, the National Congress of Mexico wisely followed the same course, and passed laws for the distribution of its uninhabited tracts among such citizens and foreigners as should choose to occupy them, and offered to those who would contract to settle the same according to the laws, a perfect guaranty of their contracts with settlers, wherever they should be made, and a liberal allowance of premium lands to themselves for engaging in an undertaking so likely to advance the national strength and prosperity.

It was under these laws that the grants of land hereinafter described were made; and it is by them and the terms of the grants themselves, that the rights and duties of the *Empresarios*, (contractors,) and those who hold under them, are fixed. As these grants differ essentially in their forms, from the patents of Great Britain, under which her American colonies were settled, and of most other European countries, it is thought advisable by those who have connected themselves with the *Empresarios* in this undertaking, that not only the contracts of those *Empresarios* with their government and with their associates, should be fully set forth, but also the laws of Mexico, regulating the colonization of her territory, so that the nature and extent of their titles, duties and obligations, might be fully understood, before engagements are made to become the subjects of a government, which extends to those who accept its proffered privileges and advantages, terms of unequalled liberality. So great are the temptations which these grants offer, and such the prevailing disposition of the oppressed population of Europe to emigrate to those countries west of the Atlantic, which offer equality of privilege to the honest and industrious of all nations, that several persons have connected themselves with the original *Empresarios*, for

the performance of their contracts, in the full belief that if engaged in with spirit, the terms of the grants might be complied with, out of the means the contracts themselves furnish, and something be left as a reward for the disbursements and trouble of the undertaking. For this purpose they formed a Company, of which the original Empresarios are members, each of the associates of which has the responsibility and advantage resulting from the number of shares he holds; have chosen a Board of Directors, (whose names appear in the deed of trust hereto annexed,) and appointed three persons to act as their Trustees and Attorneys in carrying on the enterprise. This mode of association has the advantage of engaging the zeal and influence of many persons towards the attainment of their purpose, and so divides the responsibility, that no one can sustain much loss in the event of its unsuccessful accomplishment. Seeing, however, as the associates do, in our neighbor republic, whose constitution appears more like an amended copy of our own than an original, so great and laudable a desire to increase the national strength and prosperity of their republican institutions as their colonization laws hold out, they cannot doubt but the government of that country, seeing, as it soon will, the rapid increase of its population, under the efforts to effect its purpose which the company have made, will give them such further aid and privileges as will not only guard them from loss in any event, but afford them a proper remuneration for their exertions. Such seems to be the disposition of the government, judging from the spirit of their laws. Let this result as it may, however, the *colonist*, possessing the proper requisites, and holding the scrip of the company consenting to his settlement within the limits of their grants, will see the perfect security which is given to *his* rights and possessions by the colonization laws, and cannot doubt that he will be treated with the same good faith which was exhibited to those who hold under the forfeited grants of Hayden Edwards and others, which show that whether the Empresarios perform the entire condition of the grants or not, *those who settle under them are always faithfully guaranteed by the government in their possessions.*

The object of Mexico is to populate her uninhabited territory, and while good policy requires that she should continue to afford such encouragement to Empresarios as will engage the most able and enterprising to forward her views; yet, it is plainly seen by the annexed grants, that let the contractor come out as he will, the honest and industrious settler is always safe.

As the Directors and Trustees of the Company have authorized the publication of all the colonization laws of Mexico and of the State of Cuahuila and Texas, in which their grants lie, with a view to the information of their associates, as well as to enable those who are disposed to become colonists, to judge for themselves of the expediency of so doing, it is unnecessary to advert to any of the particular clauses or principles of those laws, otherwise than as it will more particularly direct the attention of the reader to them, and as it will serve for an explanation of some of the articles which relate to *government lands not granted to any Empresario*. Into these it will be perceived by the reader, that any person, Mexican or foreigner, having the requisite qualifications, may at once enter and engage in his farming or mechanical pursuits, with a guaranty of the government, that he shall receive the quantity of land in the country or lots in a town, which the law allows to a person of his occupation. To show the desire of the government and spirit of its laws, it will be useful to call the attention of the reader, to the first article of the National Colonization Law of 18th August, 1824, wherein "*the Mexican Nation offers to foreigners who come to establish themselves within its territory, security for their persons and property, provided they subject themselves to the laws of the country;*" to the 7th article, in which the Congress interdicts its own authority to prohibit the entrance of any foreigner as a colonist, unless imperious circumstances should require it, with respect to the individuals of a particular nation; to the 14th, which guarantees the contract the Empresarios make with their colonists; and to the 15th, which prohibits any person from holding lands acquired under this law, who does not live within the limits of the republic.

On the 6th of April last, another National Law was passed, relating in some of its articles, to the colonization of the lands of the republic. It inhibits the entrance of foreigners by the northern frontier without passports; requires the states strictly to observe the laws of colonization, and to prevent the introduction of slaves. It contains a prohibition of the citizens of foreign countries, lying adjacent to the Mexican Territory, from settling as colonists in the states or territories of the republic, adjoining such countries, and suspends the terms of those contracts which are opposed to this article, so far as the same are not complied with. It opens the coasting trade to foreign vessels, for transporting the produce of the colonies to Matamoros, Tampico, and Vera Cruz, for four

years, and admits the importation of frame houses, and every kind of foreign provisions, into the ports of Galveston and Matagorda, free of duty for two years. This law appears from the terms of it, to be occasional and temporary; and while it inhibits foreigners of any particular nation from becoming settlers, leaves the choice of colonists from all others, open to the contractors.

The principles of the permanent national colonization law of 1824, many of the important principles of which are herein before alluded to, the reader will perceive are fully met by the Legislature of Cuahuila and Texas; and such inducements are held out to settlers and contractors, in their state law of the 24th March, 1825, as it was thought would have the effect of inducing the immediate emigration of foreigners into its territories; and such was the effect, as far as the law was known, which was not however extensively.

The preamble and first section of this law, set forth the desire of the government, in language calculated to induce the highest confidence; the interest of the state guarantees its design, and both are reassured by the Castilian honor of the nation, which uses the terms in which it is couched. The words are, "*The Constituent Congress of the Free, Independent, and Sovereign State of Cuahuila and Texas, desiring by every possible means to augment the population of its territory; promote the cultivation of its fertile lands; the raising and multiplication of stock, and the progress of the arts and commerce; and being governed by the Constitutional Act, the Federal Constitution, and the basis established by the National Decree of the General Congress, No. 72, have thought proper to decree the following Law of Colonization.*"

"Art. 1. All foreigners, who, in virtue of the general law of the 18th of August, 1824, which guarantees the security of the persons and property, in the territory of the Mexican Nation, wish to remove to any of the settlements of the State of Cuahuila and Texas, are at liberty so to do, and the said state invites and calls them." The second article assures those who do so, that instead of being incommoded, (referring probably to the inconvenience settlers suffered when the state was under the Spanish dominion,) they should be freely permitted to follow any branch of industry they think proper. The 3d and 4th articles permit any foreigner, then in the state, to domiciliate himself, by making a declaration to that effect to the municipal authority, and gives him liberty to select any vacant land for his residence.

Articles 8 and 9 authorize the making of contracts for colo-

nization, such as those this Company hold, and repeats the guaranty of the National Government, regarding the contracts made by the Empresarios with the families brought on at their own expense.

Article 22d provides that \$3 50 shall be paid by instalments, in six years after settlement, for each labor of irrigable land; and articles 38 and 39 provide for the giving of the government titles to the colonists, who shall pay the commissioners' and surveyors' fees in such manner as all the parties interested shall agree on among themselves, for setting off the land. Other than these fees, and the cost of stamps for their deeds, it is not perceived that any taxes or contributions are required by the laws, of the new settlers, except such as all enterprising and moral families would naturally impose on themselves, for the support of ferries, schools, and public worship; but on the contrary, the 32d article makes the following extremely liberal and encouraging provision.

"During the first TEN YEARS, counting from the day on which the new settlement may have been established, they shall be free from all contributions, of whatever denomination, with the exception of those which, in case of invasion by an enemy, or to prevent it, are generally imposed. And all the produce of agriculture or industry of the new settlers shall be free from excise duty, (Alcabala,) or other duties, throughout every part of the state, (with the exception of the duties for working the mines.) After the termination of that time, the new settlements shall be on the same footing, as to taxes, with the old ones; and the colonists shall also, in this particular, be on the same footing with the other inhabitants of the state."

The laws go further, and besides granting exemption to the settlers for ten years, of all taxes and duties upon articles imported for their own use, in the 42d article allows the exercise of a freeman's privilege to foreigners, by making them "eligible to elect the members of their municipal authorities, and to be elected to the same."

Article 46 provides that the law shall be published in all the villages of the state; communicated to the Legislatures of other states, and to the General Congress, that the same may be generally circulated abroad, through its ambassadors to foreign nations. Thus the government has pledged itself, in the most solemn manner to the world, to fulfil the engagements which the laws hold forth.

In addition to the provisions contained in the laws, the Land Commissioner's instructions, prepared under the direction of the Legislature, provide, that it shall be the duty of

the Commissioner, keeping in view the contract of the Empresarios with the government and the colonization laws, to examine the recommendations which the new settlers shall produce from the local authorities of the place they shall have removed from, accrediting their Christianity, morality, and steady habits; and then goes on and points out the mode in which deeds are to be obtained by the settlers, as follows:

"The Commissioner shall issue, in the name of the state, the titles for land, in conformity with the law, and put the new colonists in possession of their lands with all legal formalities, and the previous citation of adjoining proprietors, should there be any."

His other duties are, to lay out towns, survey townships by base lines of north and south and east and west lines, establish ferries, preside at popular elections, &c. &c.

As the Colonization laws and instructions to the Commissioner are herewith published at length, it would be useless in this place to advert to their other numerous minor provisions. But it will be expected perhaps that some information should be given of the form and powers of the Government, which exercises jurisdiction over the territory in question. Of this, to citizens of the United States, it would perhaps be enough to say, that it is modelled on their own; but to Europeans it may be necessary to add, that Mexico consists of eighteen separate states and five territories united under one general government or federal head. Its form is republican representative. It consists of an executive called the President, chosen for four years, and not re-eligible until after the expiration of four years more; of an independent Judiciary, and a Legislature of two branches.

"The faculties of the general congress are to sustain the national independence, and provide for the national security and preservation of its exterior relations; to pre-serve the federal union of the states, and the peace and public order of the interior of the federation; to maintain the independence of the states among themselves, and to sustain their proportional equality of obligations and rights; and, generally, it has power to conduct and manage all the exterior relations of the country."

"The powers of the STATE Government of Cuahuila and Texas are vested in a Governor, Legislature, and Judiciary, similar to those of the United States of North America, and arise among others from the following preliminary dispositions.

"Every man who inhabits the Territory of the State al-

though he be in transit, shall enjoy the imprescriptible rights of liberty, security, property and equality; and it is the duty of the state to conserve and protect, by wise and equitable laws, those general rights of mankind."

"It is also an obligation on the state to protect all its inhabitants in the right which they have to write, print and publish freely their thoughts and political opinions, without the necessity of examination, revision or censure, anterior to their publication."

"In this state no person shall be born a slave, neither will the introduction of slaves be permitted under any pretext."

"Foreigners who are actually and legally domiciliated in the state, are citizens, whatever may have been the country of their nativity."

Provision is made in the constitution, "that every inhabitant of the State can terminate his differences, be the state of the case what it may, by the medium of arbitrators, or in any other extra judicial manner, and all agreements to arbitrate shall be religiously observed." In most cases, "no suit in writing can be maintained until an amicable settlement shall first be attempted in the form prescribed by law."

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION is predicated upon the following basis: "In all the towns of the state, there shall be established a competent number of common schools, in which there shall be taught reading, writing, and cyphering; the catechism of the Christian religion, a short and simple explanation of the constitution, and the general one of the republic; the rights and duties of man in society, and that which can conduce to the better education of youth."

"The method of instruction shall be uniform throughout the state, and in those places where it may be necessary, there shall be institutions of learning more suitable for disseminating public instruction in the *useful arts and sciences*."

Having thus briefly alluded to the principles and form of the Mexican Governments, so similar to the Republican Institutions of the United States of North America, and to the colonization laws, so encouraging in their terms and provisions to the new colonists, in which the reader will perceive that the monopoly of great proprietors is fully guarded against, and the security of actual settlers completely guaranteed, it becomes necessary that the LOCAL ADVANTAGES which the country, now for the first time opened for the public consideration, possesses, should receive a passing notice.

THE FIRST OBJECT TO AN EMIGRANT IS THE FACILITY OF TRANSPORTING HIMSELF AND HIS FAMILY TO HIS NEW LOCA-

TION. In this respect Texas has the advantage of all others. He who seeks a support in Illinois, Indiana, or Missouri, has either to cross the Alleghany Mountains by land, or upon leaving the Atlantic, to ascend the North River to Albany, and there change his baggage from the sloop to the canal-boat, and follow its dilatory progress to Buffalo. There he changes again to the steam-hoat on Lake Erie for Cleveland, and then crosses through Ohio two hundred miles by land, to the river. Descending it, he comes to the state containing the land he proposes to settle on. He lands on its shores, and following its miry roads into the interior as far as they extend, he is then obliged to abandon all vehicles of transportation, and those trifling articles of comfort he had brought thus far, and with his pack on his back and his wife and children at his heels, he travels on foot, not only beyond all settlements, but far beyond all places where speedy settlements had been anticipated by the speculator in public lands. Thus alone in the midst of the deepest forest, he hears the hundred echoes of his axe upon his log house tree, uncertain whether a white man or a savage will be startled by its sound. There for years he waits the progress of civilization, wanting every thing else but corn, which he offers at 12, and sometimes at 10 cents a bushel, before he can find a purchaser. Indolence and ignorance are thus often induced, and intemperance and misery, their necessary attendants, follow in their train.

Look on the other hand to the facilities which the emigrant to Texas possesses, either from Europe or the Atlantic States of the North, where he embarks. He takes passage in some empty freighting vessel, and for a trifling amount beyond his provisions, is transported to New Orleans or direct to Galveston Bay, with all his family, furniture, tools, clothing, and provisions, for the first season; thence he ascends one of the rivers in a boat which carries all his baggage to the very spot, or within a short distance of it, upon which the habitation of temperance and industry is soon to be erected. All the articles of household furniture which he brought with him, but which the settler of the West had to leave behind, or abandon on the road, are placed in their proper relations of his new dwelling, and from their familiarity to the eye, and the pleasant associations they create, are almost worshipped by its inmates as were the household idols of the heathen. No sturdy forest here for months defies the axe, but smiling prairies invite the plough. Here no humble prices reduce the stimulus to labor, but the reward of industry is so ample as to furnish the greatest incentive to exertion. Here the rivers are roads

on which the ascending boats of families, seeking a location in its delightful climate, meet others returning richly laden with the surplus products of those who had been more fortunate in acquiring an earlier possession on its fruitful soil.— Here no settler is held to remain for the want of means to get back, for the frequent arrivals and return of merchant vessels, to the ports of New-Orleans, Matamoros, Tampico, and Vera Cruz, the Atlantic ports of the United States and Europe, enable the settler to obtain constant advices from those friends he left behind, and to return to them again, if their circumstances require, or his own inclination prompts it. Here no tithe of his scanty earnings for the first ten years is exacted by the exciseman, nor duty assessed upon those articles he is able to import for his own consumption or comfort.

Without further comparison, it is sufficient to add, that the **SALUBRITY OF THE CLIMATE AND FERTILITY OF THE SOIL OF TEXAS**, both admit the cultivation of every staple article, produced in all the various latitudes of the United States. The southern parts yield Sugar, Cotton, Rice, Tobacco, Olives, Grapes, Oranges, Lemons, &c.; and the more northern, Cotton, Tobacco, Indigo, Wheat, and other small grains, Potatoes, and other vegetables. Indian Corn grows luxuriantly all over the country. The Cane is said to sweeten a foot and a half higher up, and the Cotton to be of a finer texture than in Louisiana.

The heat in summer is said to be about as great as in New-York, but is not so oppressive, while the cold of winter never produces ice that will bear. The cattle of the graziers and stock raisers, pasture out on the prairies all the year, and the owner, instead of being obliged as in most parts of the United States, to work all summer in providing food for the support of his cattle in winter, receives the benefit of their labor all the year round. In such a climate the cost of a dwelling is comparatively small; of fuel, trifling; barns are not needed as coverings for cattle, nor are expensive fences necessary, but for the enclosure of such domestic animals as are daily used. In fact, the whole *labor of man* upon a soil free from rocks and sudden hills, and equally productive with that of any state in North America, is *for his own profit and advantage*.

THE FACE OF THE COUNTRY AND RIVERS OF TEXAS, attract the notice of all travellers. The banks of the Trinity or Trinidad, and the Nueces, are covered with different kinds of hard wood and pine, and the residue of the country is interspersed with small prairies and woodlands, yielding food for cattle without labor, and wood for the construction of dwell-

lings and mechanical uses, without the cost of distant transportation. The land is spoken of as rolling land, something similar to that of New-Jersey, and the lower counties of Pennsylvania and Delaware, but is more productive. The two rivers last named, which run through the centre of the colony, are navigable for steam and keel-boats. While their branches, and the Sabine and St. Jacinto rivers on its borders, water the country in all directions. As the banks of the rivers are high, they do not often overflow their limits, leaving those pools of water on the flats, which in the valley of the Mississippi soon become the prolific sources of malignant and intermitting fevers. Neither is there a necessity of letting in the rays of the sun suddenly upon the vegetable deposit of ages, by clearing the woods extensively, which is one of the chief causes of the diseases in the western country, as the turning up of the pure loam of the prairies, which has had a similar exposure for centuries before the knowledge of their existence by man, is not attended with those deleterious effects. But although no reason for especial care is known, as arising from the climate, soil or water, yet, by those rules of common prudence which govern all men upon any considerable change of climate, those who are about seeking a new location should adopt the usual precautions for preserving their health by attention to their diet and regimen upon their first arrival, carrying with them such aperient medicines as have been in familiar use in their families.

THE EXISTING POPULATION IS SUCH AS TO DESTROY THE IDEA OF LONELINESS EVEN TO THE FIRST EMIGRANTS. Independently of the town of Nacogdoches, which is in the midst of the colony and which has eight or nine hundred inhabitants, it is supposed there are about four hundred settlers on different parts of it. The town of Harrishurg is on the opposite side of the St. Jacinto river, on which one person, it is observed in the Texas Gazette, advertises a house of entertainment, and another, a blacksmith, offers accommodation for travellers. The town of San Felipe Austin, (in which a newspaper is printed, and but a day's journey off,) is situated in the centre of a colony settled with about six thousand American inhabitants in the short space of seven years, by the enterprising and intelligent proprietor of the colony, whose name the chief town bears. It is directly between that colony and the boundary line of the United States that the land now offered to emigrants is situated. To this it is proper to add, that before these sheets will be printed, the schooner *Angelia* will have sailed from New-York with

several overseers, (and loaded with emigrants, principally Swiss families,) with instructions to erect suitable habitations for future emigrants on their arrival at Galveston, until they shall select suitable spots for their permanent location. Other vessels are also preparing to sail with passengers. Mr. Zavala has embarked for Europe to contract with colonists; Mr. Dececen, a native of Normandy, has gone to France to procure vine dressers; and his brother, as the agent of Colonel Mexia, sails from hence this week, in the schooner Crescent, with 70 or 80 persons, to settle his location on the San Jacinto, prepared with seeds of the China mulberry and grape cuttings of every variety. Another vessel will soon sail from New-York, and it is expected others will continually follow for the colony, from New-York or Boston. The trustees at New-York and Boston will give every facility, to those who arrive at those ports, of transportation to a country more congenial to their habits and constitution, than the more northern regions of the United States or Canada which they sought.

ROADS AND POST RIDERS traverse the colony in various directions. From Natchitoches on the Red river, to which steam-boats from New-Orleans weekly arrive, an old established road, with ferries across the rivers, passes through Cantonment Jessup to the Sabine, a distance of fifty miles; thence on the northern line of Zavala's grant, sixty miles to Nacogdoches; thence between Vehlein and Burnet's grant, it runs to Bexar, Bahia or Galid and Matamoros in one direction, and to San Felipe Austin, Harrisburg, Bragonia, Gonzales, Victoria, Matagorda, &c. in others. Some of these are only new settlements, while others are considerable villages. The map also shows a road from New-Orleans, in another direction, which runs through Opelousas, and crosses the Trinity in its route to San Felipe Austin, which from the rapid increase of population in the surrounding colonies, and its central situation, bids fair to become, at no distant period, the capital of the state.

THE PRODUCTS OF THE SOIL, THE CERTAINTY OF A MARKET, AND THE COST OF TRANSPORTATION, are objects of the greatest solicitude to new settlers. Upon this head, Texas challenges all other countries for a comparison of advantages. In addition to the great staples of sugar, cotton, wheat, and rice, tobacco is produced abundantly; but, from the demand of home consumption, and the restraints of law, is not an article of commerce. The *grape* of infinite variety flourishes without culture, and the manufacture of wine in the town of Parras, four degrees west of Matamoros, has reach-

ed a noticeable extent, both for the quality of the wine and amount produced. Indigo is indigenous to Texas, and grows on the sides of the roads like milk weed, only wanting the hand of culture to become a valuable export. *Provisions* of all kinds, *cattle, horses, and mules*, yield a profit to the grazer, such as no other region can realize. Why? Because of the certainty of a *cash market* at high prices, for all of them in two days sail to Matamoros, and four to Tampico and Vera Cruz, and other ports of the republic, where every article of Mexican produce is not only free of duty, but has the protection of a high tariff upon similar productions of the United States and other foreign countries. The all-consuming market of Cuba is also within five days sail.

These, it is apprehended, are no small advantages in possession of those who have the facility of water transportation by the numerous rivers which flow through the colony, from almost every township in it.

OF THE RELIGION AND MANNERS OF THE PEOPLE.—When Gen. Pike travelled through Texas in 1807, he observed "that the religion was Catholic, but much relaxed." As it was at that time, so the Catholic continues to be the established religion of the state, as it is in most of the nations on the continent of Europe, and as the Episcopal is in England. But though the Catholic religion is required to be supported in Texas, it is understood that there is no persecution there for opinions' sake upon that interesting topic, respecting which it is probable there will always be a difference of opinion among mankind. In the old military posts, both the religion and manners of the people are completely Spanish, the hospitable inhabitants freely indulging themselves in habits of indolence and ease, in smoking, music, dancing, horseracing, and other sports; while the activity, industry, and frugality of the American population are apparent in all the new settlements. It would be difficult, in fact, to reconcile the manners and practices of either the old or new population with the provisions of the laws, without supposing that some of the laws in Mexico are like many in America and in all other countries, a dead letter on the statute book.

Having observed upon many points which it was thought would be instructing to the reader, and ascertained the important powers of the Federal and State Governments of the republic, it becomes necessary for the settler to be informed that these powers are so carried into effect, by the laws, as to afford the highest and most exemplary encouragement to NATIONAL INDUSTRY, by *protecting duties upon all articles*

of agricultural produce and mechanical construction, particularly those of wood and leather.—Of these, the prices of which, from the abundant supply of the precious metals and the habitual inactivity and luxury of the generous Mexicans, the intelligent classes of emigrants will avail themselves in a rapid accumulation of wealth proportionate to their sagacity and industry. Nothing but extravagance can prevent it.—The colonist with such protection to his industry as the law affords, has nothing to do but steadily pursue his vocation, on the spot he selects for the support of his family, for the rise of land alone, if he has enough of it, will make his fortune. We therefore must add a few words on the subject of

THE TARIFF.—By this the colonist will see that the same laws which protect the agriculture of the country, also offer the highest inducements for mechanics and manufacturers to occupy the lands of the republic, and avail themselves of its bountiful provisions.—*Leather*, and all articles principally made of it, *Soap, Lard, Tallow, and Tallow Candles, Starch*, and several other articles are prohibited, while the duty on all sorts of *pleasure carriages, common carts and wagons of transportation, on household furniture of fine wood, fancy chairs, and on hats made of wool, &c. &c.* is exceedingly high. The following letter of Messrs. Függerman, Belden & Co. an extensive commercial house at Matamoros, on the western boundary of Texas and its principal market, shows conclusively the immense advantage that the mechanics and tradesmen settled in the colony have in the markets of Matamoros, and other ports of Mexico, where their productions are admitted duty free, (in the same manner as those of the United States are when transported from one port or state to another,) over those who live out of the territories of the republic, and are consequently subject to those prohibitions and duties.

NEW-YORK, Dec. 6th, 1830.

To Messrs. Anthony Dey, Wm. H. Sumner,
and George Curtis.

GENTLEMEN—Having been informed that you are appointed Trustees of a Company, for colonizing the lands upon that part of Texas through which the rivers run that empty into Galveston Bay, and believing from the relative situation of your colony and Matamoros, the place of the establishment of our house, matters of mutual interest may arise, we beg leave

to enclose you our card, and tender our best services in any business you may please to command them.

Matamoros is pleasantly situated on the right bank of the Rio Bravo del Norte. Although a few years since this place, then called Refugio, contained only a few houses, it now numbers 6 or 7000 inhabitants, and is rapidly increasing. The importation of all kinds of lumber, except houseframes, and of almost all kinds of provisions and vegetables, is prohibited by the laws of Mexico, while we understand that the climate and soil are favorable to the production of all kinds of edibles, and that lumber abounds in Texas. Boots, shoes, saddlery and harness, morocco skins, leather, &c. are also prohibited. The duty on chairs is \$1 25 each; on wardrobes of fine wood \$36; and on other articles of cabinet furniture about the same in proportion. The duty on calashes of 2 wheels is \$125; on 4 wheels \$291 67. All these articles therefore being free of duty from your colony, and selling very high with us, afford great temptation to the enterprising manufacturers of those articles, to the dealers in lumber and to agriculturists to settle themselves on your grant. Wagons and carts, such as are made in the United States, would soon supersede, if introduced, the plank wheeled vehicles now in use; and the timber on the river Trinity, we understand, is well suited for their construction. Cotton, which grows well in Texas, will always sell at the ports of the republic, Matamoros, Tampico and Vera Cruz, at about the same prices as in the United States, for return cargoes to Europe. We therefore state our conviction that Matamoros, alone, will furnish a cash market for all the surplus mechanical and agricultural products of Texas, for many years to come.

At foot we annex the prices at Matamoros, of several of the staple articles of Texas.

Very respectfully,

Your most ob't sv'ts,

Fügerman, Belden & Co.

Flour,	-	-	\$16 a 20	pr. bbl.
Indian Corn,	-	-	3 a 5	" "
			3	

Rice,	-	-	-	12c. a 15c.	pr. lb.
Brown Sugar	-	-	-	25c. a 26c.	" "
Hog's Lard,	-	-	-	24c. a 26c.	" "
Hams,	-	-	-	25c. a 30c.	" "
Potatoes,	-	-	-	\$3 a 5	" bbl.
Lumber at Brazos,					\$40 pr. m.

What a prospect do the facts contained in this letter furnish to the farmers and planters, mechanics and manufacturers of Texas? *Rice*, the product of the few meadows on the sea coast, is at four or five times the price of it in Carolina! Brown sugar, also made in the southern part of the colony, is a quarter of a dollar a pound! Flour 16 to 20 dollars a barrel! Hogs' lard and hams, in a country where pigs find their own living abroad, 24 to 30 cents a pound! Indian corn and potatoes, 3 to 5 dollars a barrel! and lumber \$40 a thousand! Where will the agriculturist find a better country than that which pays such prices for his produce? How does his condition, who settled on the public lands of Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, compare with it? or his on the tributary waters of the Wabash, the Illinois and the Missouri rivers, where corn sells for 10 or 12cts. a bushel, and sometimes less? The cost of their land is greater; their climate not so healthy; their winters longer; and their soil, to speak as respectfully of it as it deserves, no better; yet in one the farmer is free from *taxes* and *duties* for *ten years*, and in the other has to bear his share of the public burdens. In one he has water transportation to cash markets, and in the other cannot get to any market at all. In one situated on the broad ocean, he has frequent means of communicating with his friends in all parts of the world, and in the other may hut unobserved, live unnoticed, and die unknown.—What encouragement does it also afford to mechanics? Since the declaration of her independence from Spain, it has been the purpose of Mexico to strengthen herself by increasing her population: and how could she better effect this than by encouraging the settlement in her territories of the skilful artisans of other countries, and the foreign manufacturers of articles of utility and pleasure, from the raw materials of her own produce?—To induce foreign artizans to come from abroad, she gives them either the exclusive sales in her own markets, or favors their industry with such high duties, as have the double effect of adding to the nation's strength and increasing the consumption of her own products.—The interior prairies and woods of New-Mex-

ico are filled with wild cattle, wild horses, buffalo, deer, sheep, &c. &c. She therefore prohibits from entry all articles manufactured from the raw materials, of which she has so great an abundance; and at the same time, in the language of the colonization laws, "*guarantees to foreigners security of their persons and property, and invites and calls them to come among them,*" assuring them they may follow their own business unmolested.

The tariff and colonization laws are both founded on the same policy and have the same end in view.—The laws of the Emperor Iturbide had the same object as those of the republic—which proves that the encouragement held out to agriculturists and manufacturers, is not the exclusive policy of any particular party or administration, but is the policy of the country. What an opening is here for tanners, curriers, morocco, skin and leather dressers, tallow chandlers, hatters, shoe makers, saddlers and harness makers: where on the face of the globe are the manufactures of those articles as high as in Mexico? And where can there be so great a profit as in working them within her jurisdiction, where they can be sent to her *silver dollar markets at a trifling cost of transportation, and duty free?*

The same remarks apply with equal force to all *workers in wood*. "Where the road crosses the river Trinity, says Gen. Pike, it is about sixty yards in width, with high steep banks, covered with timber and a rich luxuriant soil." The oak, hickory, black walnut, ash, wild cherry, elm and pine are suitable for the manufacture of calashes and pleasure carriages of all descriptions, carts and wagons, household furniture, &c. &c. Is not the duty of \$125 on a spanish calash, or \$292 on a four wheel carriage, an inducement for coach and chaise makers to settle themselves in the beautiful and fertile country west of the Sabine, where they can avail themselves of the advantages the laws and the luxurious habits of Mexico hold forth to their industry. Will cabinet makers worry out a toilsome existence in an old country, where their business is overdone, or remove to a new one, where they will have the monopoly of the markets? Will not *fancy chair makers* wish to seek a location where the duty alone is more than the cost of the chair? Will not *house carpenters*, also wish to go where so much building is going on, and other tradesmen, where wages are high, and they can work out of doors every month in the year? And blacksmiths and wheelrights to locate themselves where they can supply carts and wagons, in which the smooth turned axle will supply the place

of the unhewn sticks which squeak in the holes of the plank wheels in common use? These observations might be much extended, and applied to various other trades; but it would be useless to those who are already possessed of the general truth of the remark, that the encouragement to the manufacturer is proportionate to the amount of duty on the article he makes. We should, however, make an important omission were we to pass on without noticing the encouragement to the **COTTON MANUFACTURER** which the tariff of Mexico affords. It rests upon simple facts, which the gentlemen engaged in that business will understand, and wants no comment.

The common cotton cloths of the American *domestic* manufactories, that cost in this country 7 to 9 cents, when imported into the Mexican republic, say Vera Cruz, Tampico, &c. pay a duty of 18½ cents per vara, (8 per cent. less than a yard,) equal to 20½ cents per yard; the duty being the same in Mexico on coarse and fine cottons. The raw material, being the product of the soil, is on the spot; and the consumption of our domestics the past year has been from 10 to 20 thousand bales, in addition to the vast importation of cottons from Great Britain and elsewhere at the same duty. We think we are justified in saying that these facts present encouragement for the establishment of cotton factories, *unequaled in any country.*

There is one inquiry, however, which it is anticipated has arisen in the reader's mind, and which ought to be answered before we proceed to another part of the subject; and that is, if such encouragements as these do really exist, how comes it, when the old world is overburdened with mechanics and manufacturers, tramping from one factory to another for employ, they never have heard of it before? This very natural inquiry is very easily answered: The debilitated government of Spain long strove, by all the restrictions upon the industry of her colonies possible to be invented, to keep Spanish America dependent on Europe. It is only in 1824, that having partaken of the spirit of the age and thrown off the Spanish yoke, Mexico adopted the present republican constitution of government. This fact is well understood; but the change of the laws arising out of the spirit of her free institutions, have not yet been made known to the world; and it is probable the successful experiment of Col. Austin with the enterprising population he has introduced into his colony, (rising as they have, and will continue to do, in prosperity and enjoyment, as the country around them is settled,) has contributed more to their promulgation, than all the despatches required of the Mexican ministers to foreign states.

In introducing to the public notice the grants to the empresarios and the laws of Mexico, it was deemed proper that some account of the country should accompany it; and the foregoing was proposed from the published and oral accounts of travellers on whom it was thought reliance could be placed. For its entire correctness, however, the company cannot vouch, very few of its members having been in the country, and those few not having been in all the various parts of it which have been remarked upon. It is with great satisfaction, therefore, that they have the authority of Mr. Burnet, one of the Empresarios, to append his name to his revised account of Texas, which within a few weeks has been sought for and read with great avidity by those emigrants who had heard of the propositions about to be submitted for supplying them with farms at a less expense and in a milder clime, than the western wilds of the United States or Canada can furnish.

NEW-YORK, Nov. 4, 1830.

*To Messrs. Anthony Dey, Wm. H. Sumner,
and George Curtis.*

HAVING spent two years in Texas, part of the time in Austin's colony, and the rest of it in traversing the country, to which I am about returning for my permanent residence,—in compliance with your request to furnish a brief account of it, and more particularly of the grants of Messrs. Zavala, Vchlein and Burnet, I remark, that Texas, in its usual and most extensive acceptation, comprises the whole territory lying between the southwestern boundary of the United States and the Rio Grande, alias, the Rio Bravo del Norte, the Gulf of Mexico on the South, and the Arkansas and Mississippi Territories of the United States on the north. This definition, however, is not in strict accordance with the political organization of the country, as the state of Tamaulipas and the department of Cuahuila, both cross the Rio Grande, making the Nueces strictly the western limit. Anterior to the independence of Mexico, in 1821, under the vice regal government, Texas was almost an unknown wilderness. Foreigners of all nations were prohibited under the penalty of an indefinite imprisonment, at the caprice of a petty military despot, from trespassing on its soil; and the few native subjects that had sufficient enterprise to encounter the hazards and privations of a new settlement, were constrained, by their habitual indolence and timidity, to restrict themselves to compact habitations. Under these circumstances the villages of St. Antonio de

Bexar, La Bahia del Espiritu Santo, and Nacogdoches were commenced, and small parcels of ground in the vicinity of each were brought into cultivation; and under similar discouragements they have lingered along in almost total abstraction from the world, for near a century. The country at large was left to its primitive condition; and remained so, without an effort on the part of the government to reclaim it, until the final subversion of the regal power, and the emancipation of Mexico from the improvident dominion of Spain. Soon after the institution of the present federal republican government, the settlement of Texas became a favorite point of national policy, and laws of colonization were enacted, expressly to effectuate that object, guaranteeing protection to the persons and property of foreigners, and inviting them to settle on its fertile lands. Under those laws a large portion of the country has been granted, in districts of various dimensions, to *Empresarios*, or Founders of Colonies, for settlement. The colonies so conceded, comprehend nearly all the land that is desirable for present occupation.

About seven years have elapsed since the authorized emigration to Texas from the United States commenced; and for a considerable part of that time, the inducements presented to settlers were but little known. Emigration was consequently limited. Within a few years it has greatly increased in number, and improved in character. The whole amount of the Anglo-American population at present, does not, I presume, vary much from 8000 souls, the most of whom are settled in Austin's colony, which commenced in 1821. The native Mexican population is about 5000 souls, and these are chiefly resident at the three villages before mentioned. Of the aboriginal Indian inhabitants, any estimate I could make, would be conjectural. The principal tribes are located high up in the interior, and have no connexion, and very seldom any intercourse, with the white settlements. They have never caused any very serious disquietude to the colonists from their earliest settlement, and are now regarded as perfectly impotent, and easy of control.

There are few regions of the globe on which the bounties of nature have been more profusely dispensed, than on this delightful country, that is just emerging from obscurity. The fertility of its soil—the amenity of its climate—its contiguity to the ocean—the numerous rivers which empty into it, affording the cheapest transportation to the highest markets in the world, for the principal product of its soil,—are such advantages as are seldom concentrated in an equal degree, and which

will enable the enterprising population which is now pouring into it to render Texas the most favored portion of the earth. The territory between the Sabine and the Rio Grande includes a sea coast of about 500 miles extent. In that distance there are but three harbors of considerable importance, to wit: Galveston, Matagorda, and the Brasos St. Iago, the haven of the Rio Grande. That of Galveston is decidedly preferable to the others, and is probably the best harbor between Pensacola in Florida, and Vera Cruz in Mexico. The bay of Galveston is about thirty miles in length, and varies from twelve to eighteen in width. It receives the river Trinity, the San Jacinto, and some smaller streams; and it may, at very little labor or expense, be connected by canals, so as to receive the produce of the Sabine on one side, and the outlet of the Brasos on the other—both of these places being without a depth of water sufficient for any considerable maritime navigation. The island of Galveston, (San Luis) about thirty miles long, and three to five broad, stretches along the coast in front of the Bay, and arresting the surges of the gulf, forms a secure and commodious harbor within, adequate to all the ordinary purposes of commerce. The principal entrance is at the eastern extremity of the island, where the main land projects to the west, in a promontory of considerable elevation, and is called Point Bolivar. The passage is probably half a mile in width, and the bar, which is stationary and uniform, carries at all times twelve feet, and at ordinary high tide fourteen, and sometimes sixteen feet of water. The channel is spacious, and free from intricacies; the anchorage firm and good. The depth of water within the point of the island, varies from eighteen to thirty feet for some miles up the bay, until you approach Red-Fish Bar, which bisects the bay in nearly equal parts. On this bar there are not more than five or six feet of water. The harbor, which lies on the inner side of the Island of St. Louis, is generally well sheltered from the winds.

The rivers of Texas are, the Netches, the Trinity, San Jacinto, Brasos, Colorado, La Baca, Guadalupe, Nueces, and several others. The Trinity, (Trinidad) rises near the Red river of Louisiana, in its great western bend, and passing through Burnet's and Vehlein's Grants, empties into the bay of Galveston, running a course about 350 miles, through a rich and rolling country. The Trinity is supposed to be navigable during five or six months of the year, ordinarily from January to June, by steam-boats of 100 tons, for about 200 miles above its mouth. If there are any obstructions to its navigation, I

am not aware of them. The river Netches also rises near Red river, and traversing Burnet's and part of Vehlein's, it enters Zavala's grant, and discharges into the Sabine bay. The Netches is navigable by the smaller class of steam-boats for about 75 miles, and by Keel-boats, some 30 or 40 miles further. Both these rivers, and indeed all the rivers of Texas, as of the west generally, are liable, occasionally, and at some points, to overflow their banks. But these periodical inundations are nothing like as extensive as are those of the Mississippi, and its prodigious tributaries. The beds of the Trinity and Netches are remarkably deep, and the waters usually recede within the banks early in the spring, and are never productive of the deleterious exhalations which so fatally infect the atmosphere of Louisiana. These rivers water a country that is seldom exceeded in fertility of soil, or beauty of aspect. The bottom lands are composed of the richest alluvion, and are thickly set with timber, or dense cane-brakes, and sometimes both. The uplands are generally good, and much of them characterised by a deep luxuriant loam. The crops most congenial to the soil and climate in the grants of Zavala and Vehlein, which bound on the gulf, in latitude 29° and 30° , are Sugar, Cotton, Indigo, Rice, Tobacco, and all the fruits common to the temperate zone, as Oranges, Lemons, Grapes, Olives, Prunes, Figs, &c. &c. Burnet's grant, which adjoins the latter on the north, will yield Cotton and Tobacco, together with Wheat, Rye, Oats, Barley, and all the small grains, and the fruits and vegetables common to the United States. Indian corn grows luxuriantly all over the country, and with the same carefulness of tillage, will yield as plentifully as in Kentucky or Ohio.

The three contiguous and now united grants of Zavala, Vehlein, and Burnet, comprehend the best wooded and the best watered portions of Texas. The surface generally is woodland, but it is frequently variegated by small prairies, or natural meadows, containing from 100 to 1000 acres. Many of these primordial *clearings* present very eligible and picturesque sites for buildings, and render a bountiful harvest to the plough of the cultivator. Unlike the pioneer settlers in the western wilds of the United States, emigrants to Texas, will not have to encounter years of arduous labor in subduing heavy and obstinate forests; but they will be able, in almost every instance, to procure a portion of good prairie, for present cultivation, without any preparatory labor but that of burning the grass with which they are thickly carpeted. The face of the country in these grants is generally undulatory,

with very few, if any, *dead levels*, on which the water rests and stagnates, and has no broken or precipitous hills, or arid plains, that may not be profitably ploughed and planted. No country can be better adapted to the culture of the Vine than this. The poorest description of land in it, is admirably suited for Vineyards, and it will, it is anticipated, in no very remote period, rival the choicest productions of France and Italy in wines and fruits. The native Grapes are found growing luxuriantly in all quarters, and many of them are of exquisite flavor; while those of Arkansas and Louisiana, owing to the greater humidity of the atmosphere in those regions, are comparatively acrid, and liable to untimely blights. For the same and other analogous reasons, Cotton and the Sugar-cane flourish better, and arrive at greater perfection in Texas, than in either of those countries. The Cotton is of a finer texture, a longer staple, more silky, and is confessedly worth 25 per cent. more in New-Orleans: and in respect to productiveness, Texas has at least 25 per cent. the advantage. The Sugar-cane grows larger and taller in the stalk, and possesses the saccharine matter in larger proportions and greater purity.

The timber in these grants, includes many varieties, among which are several kinds of Oak, Hickory, Black Walnut, Ash, Wild Cherry, Mulberry, Elm, Hackberry, Pecan, Linn, Gum, Yellow Pine, &c. &c. Cypress is found on the Netches and the Sabine, but whether in large quantities I am not informed. Live Oak abounds in some parts of Texas, and grows to a large size, and will constitute a valuable article of merchandise. Red Cedar is found on some of the uplands, and like the Live Oak, furnishes an excellent material in naval architecture. The Pine grows large and lofty, and will be immensely valuable for lumber. It is most frequently found interspersed with other varieties of timber, as Hickory, Oak, &c. which indicate a good soil. Indeed this description of land, some of which occurs on the Trinity, in Vehlen's grant, has been ascertained by successive experiments, to yield good crops of Sugar, Cotton, and Corn.

One distinctive characteristic of this beautiful country, is its exemption from swamps and stagnant pools. The land invariably ascends from the water courses, and rising to moderate eminences, precludes the formation of swamps or putrid ponds, to any injurious extent. This probably is one efficient cause of the singular purity, elasticity, and equability of the atmosphere. While the midsummer air of Louisiana is encumbered with moisture and surcharged with noxious miasma, the pure atmosphere of Texas is renewed and refreshed by

lively breezes, fresh from the ocean, rolling over a dry, verdant, waving surface, and imparting health and vigor to all that inhale them. I do not design to portray Texas as a paradise of immortality. Man is mortal by the tenure of his existence, and must die there, as elsewhere. But that it is blessed with a climate of uncommon salubrity and delightfulness, is an opinion warranted by the observations of all travellers, and obviously accounted for by its locality and configuration. That some parts of it will be more or less sickly, is quite probable. Indeed, it would be strange were it not so. Bilious and intermittent fevers are incident to all southern latitudes, and *very few* northern ones are exempt from them. But there are few regions, either north or south, where bilious fevers are of a milder type, or more within the control of medicine, than are those which occur in Texas; and but few, if any, chronic diseases originate there. Lest I should be supposed to exaggerate, which I certainly do not intend, I will quote the authority of the late General Pike, who travelled through Texas in 1807, and who, in his journal, under the head of Texas, says, "It is one of the most delightful temperatures in the world. The province is well timbered for 100 miles from the coast, and has some small Prairies interspersed through its timbered lands: but *take it generally, it is one of the richest and most prolific and best watered countries in North America.*" I should however recommend that emigrants from the north, should settle in Burnet's grant, until they become acclimated to a more southern location.

The three grants of Zavala, Vehlein, and Burnet, are exceedingly well watered. Besides the Trinity and the Netches, there are several smaller rivers, as the Angelina, the Attoyeac, the Sabine, the San Jacinto; and numerous creeks and bayous that intersect and refresh the land in all directions, and afford abundant sites for mills, and all needful hydraulic machinery. The upper, Burnet's, abounds in Springs of the purest water and they are not unfrequent in the lower districts. The rivers are well furnished with fish of different sorts. The Red-fish abound in Galveston Bay, insomuch that a bar, which intersects it, takes its name from them. They ascend the streams for some distance, but I believe are not found above tide-water. It is a fish of excellent flavor, weighing from five to twelve pounds, and takes the hook with all the voracity of the pike. Oyster beds are frequent along the coast, and at most of the inlets. The Oysters are fine, and sometimes large, and may be conveniently gathered. In the winter season, the waters near the coast are literally covered with wild fowl,

such as Ducks, Geese, Brant, and Swan. Geese and Ducks resort in great numbers to the interior waters. Deer and Wild Turkeys are common every where. The black bear is frequently found in the forests and cane-brakes. Wolves, of several varieties, infest the country, and will for some time be troublesome visitants; but they soon retire from the haunts of man. The Pecari, or wild hog, is occasionally met with in small gangs. They are of no value and will soon disappear. Some Panthers and wild Cats skulk in the thickets. They are not numerous, however, and will soon be exterminated. Buffalo are seldom seen near the sea-coast. They descend in large herds from the Arkansas and Missouri, and furnish the principal sustenance of the Indians of the interior of Texas. Wild horses roam over the country: they abound particularly on the river Nueces, and far in the interior. Within the organized settlements they are not numerous, and are rapidly diminishing. They are often caught in droves by being driven into pens constructed for that purpose: and when taken young, under four years old, are easily subdued and domesticated. Many of them are animals of fine figure, but they are generally inferior in size to the blood horses of this country. They are of all colors, are hardy and active, and better adapted to the saddle than to harness. Mingled with the herds of *Mustangs*, or wild Horses, are frequently seen Jacks, Jennies, and Mules. Mules and Horses were formerly raised in great abundance, and made a principal part of the exports of the country, and will soon again become a lucrative branch of business, as it is attended with little labor and trifling expense. Good Jacks can be purchased in the neighborhood of the Rio Grande for about \$20, and good unbroken Mares, which are equally as valuable as broken ones, can be had at two to five dollars per head, and driven into Texas at an expense, including all risks, estimated at about 50 per cent. on the first cost. A capital stock once obtained, and the subsequent expenses are trifling; the increase sure and valuable. The whole face of the country, woodland and prairie, upland and bottom, is verdant with grass; and throughout the winter season, the bottom-lands and cane-brakes, afford a fresh and apparently inexhaustible pasturage for black cattle, to the raising of which, some of the emigrants have lately turned their attention. The stock will seldom require even the slight trouble of salting, as *licks* are common, and their instinctive propensities will soon find them out. Where they are confined to cane-brakes, it will be advisable to use salt occasionally, on account of the constipative quality of that food; but when they feed

alternately on grass and cane it is less necessary. It has been said, and not without reason, that it will cost more to raise a brood of chickens in Texas, than an equal number of cattle. The one is feeble and dependent and confined to the precincts of the house, where its natural means of sustenance are soon exhausted, and it must be fed and protected. The others range abroad; are nourished and defended by their respective dams, who, feeding on the untilled and ungarnered harvests of nature, are very soon competent to protect and support themselves.

The horses, mules, black cattle, hogs, and sheep of Texas will always find good markets in the West India Islands and in Louisiana. At present the beef cattle and hogs are slaughtered at St. Antonio de Bexar; but that market is limited and precarious. In many parts of Texas hogs may be raised in great numbers, on the native mast. Acorns, pecans, hickory nuts, &c., with the several varieties of grass and many kinds of roots, afford them ample sustenance throughout the year. But these advantages are incidental and peculiar to a *new* country, and will of course gradually disappear as the settlements become compact and the ground is occupied. They nevertheless contribute much to the comfort and prosperity of early settlers, and will, for years to come, be measurably enjoyed in the territory under consideration. There are but few sheep at present in the southern part of Texas. They are raised in large herds on the Prairies of the northern part near the Rio Grande; but the wool is not of the best kind. In all the middle and maritime districts, the herbage is generally too luxuriant, and the temperature is too high for that delicate and fastidious animal, but the interior and hilly regions are susceptible of being converted into as ample and well provisioned sheep-walks, as any country in the world, and I should judge the climate to be happily adapted to the merino breed.

Texas is not only an agricultural and a stock producing country; but it abounds in valuable metals and other fossils. Many rich specimens of silver ore have been found, and there is no question that this metal exists in large quantities. Tradition speaks of gold. The master metal, iron, has been discovered in many places, and not remote from navigable water. Lead has been found, without being sought for; and whether it occurs frequently, or in large quantities, I am not informed. I have seen samples of copper ore, taken from the head waters of the Brasos, that were almost pure. Indications of stone coal have been casually observed. Salt springs have been discovered in several places, and salt lagoons are spread over much of the country on the sea board between the river Nueces

and the Rio Grande. The water of the Brasos is sometimes perceptibly impregnated with salt, which proceeds from an immense depository of that mineral, near its source. In Burnet's grant, on the waters of the Netches, there is a copious salt spring, the water of which is said to be so strong that common salt is not soluble in it. It spreads over a surface of several hundred yards, and the ground is thickly incrustated with it by natural evaporation. Salt is made in considerable quantities at the mouth of the Brasos. The water is extracted from a well about 20 feet deep, in the salt marshes which line the coast in that quarter. In short, Texas is abundantly furnished with this indispensable article. Many years will not elapse, before the minerals of Texas will attract the attention of mineralogists whose researches will probably lead to developments of yet unexplored and incalculable riches. It was a part of the colonial policy of the ancient government, induced by the proximity of the country to the United States, to prohibit all such investigations within this frontier Province.

Among the inducements to emigration presented by this interesting country, the facility and cheapness of access to it, are by no means inconsiderable. A passage from New-York to Galveston may be effected as soon, as cheaply, and as pleasantly, as to New-Orleans; and vessels of any size that can reach the one place, may have easy access to the other. Indeed, Galveston, as a harbor, is much superior to New-Orleans. The depth of water on the respective bars is about equal; but Galveston has an immense advantage in lying directly on the Gulf, and not requiring the costly aid of steam tow-boats to conduct shipping to its destined haven. The situation of Galveston for foreign commerce is very felicitous. The Gulf of Mexico is spread out before it. Cuba is near at hand, and all the Islands of the West-Indies are within a few days sail, as is also the entire coast of Central America, of Venezuela and of Colombia. The current of the Gulf Stream, the great River of the Ocean, is at hand to sweep her vessels, with accelerated rapidity, to the eastern Atlantic. The ports of Matamoros, Tampico, Alvarado, Vera Cruz, and Campeachy, all within the government of Mexico, are open to her commerce, free of charges; and will always afford rich and extensive markets for the lumber, the provisions, and to some extent, for the cotton of Texas. Indian corn is never worth less than one dollar, and often commands from two to three dollars per bushel, at either of those ports. Beans, peas, potatoes, and other culinary vegetables are always in demand, and may be

produced in any desirable quantity, in either of the three colonies of Zavala, Vehlein, and Burnet. No country promises a more ample remuneration to the industry of its inhabitants than this, and the laws of none holds forth stronger protection to the labor of respectable emigrants. Population she wants—sober, industrious, virtuous, republican population. With that, she will compete with the choicest sections of the globe, in all that is requisite to secure the happiness and prosperity of man.

DAVID G. BURNET.

The settling of a new colony of the extent and capacity of that proposed in Texas, is a work of no small expense and responsibility. Though the climate is mild, the rivers numerous, and the soil rich, its products valuable, the transportation cheap, the markets sure, and the prices high, yet there are hardships incident to any new country, which almost defy anticipation, and which all who do not use the proper precautions, must be sure to endure. Notwithstanding this the enterprising spirit of the age cannot be checked. Men will seek better homes than they possess, though at the hazard of loss, and even the dangers of their enterprise often seem to increase their energies. The difficulties the New England emigrant to the west has to encounter, are often far greater than even those imagined who had best contemplated the subject. But to those who leave their homes unprepared, upon sudden emergency, are often greater than they or their dependants are able to bear. The journey is expensive and toilsome, occupying often months in its accomplishment by land and canal-boats before a spot can be selected; and then the minimum price of land is \$1,25 per acre, to be paid in cash at the land office, where the choice of location is made. Many are there whose necessities on the way have required the expenditure of the cash they had laid up to pay for their land, and who arrive without the means of effecting a location. This subject is now well understood, and although the minimum price of land in the United States is so low, there are, it is said, 6,000 subscribers to the Oregon project of effecting a settlement in the humid climate of Columbia river, after a six months journey over the Rocky Mountains, because there they will get their land for nothing. Let those of them, who are tired in waiting for the patronage of Congress to their undertaking, reflect that in the dry and healthy climate of Texas, they can get land for next to nothing, free of taxes for ten years, and that its commercial prospects are infinitely greater.

Having treated of the constitution and government of Mexico; of her grants, and the principles of public policy upon which they are founded; of her soil, climate, and productions; of her markets and means of transportation; of her tariff and other encouragements to industry,—it now remains that we say a few words on the political condition and prospects of Texas, that the colonist may understand the subject, as well as those who have offered it to his consideration.—It is the interest of those on whose territory he purposes to settle, to give him all the information which will enable him to understand the true situation in which he will be placed, that no unfounded anticipations may afterwards produce discontent.

It was said, in the first part of this address, that, until it was otherwise conceded by the treaty of Florida, it was always supposed that Texas was an integral part of Louisiana, by which it is bounded on the east and on the north. Its numerous rivers rising in the United States and emptying into the Gulf of Mexico, the fertility of its soil, capable of supporting millions of inhabitants; its harbors, and particularly the bay of Galveston, nearly as large as Narraganset Bay, in which there is a great depth of water, but which has a fixed bar of 12 feet water at low tide, which might be easily removed, so as to make it a most healthy and commanding naval station, are local inducements of sufficient importance to make this territory a desirable acquisition to the United States. But its importance to this country, more than all, arises from the commanding power it would give to another, should it fall into her hands. Should Great Britain, to whom Mexico is indebted in something like 70 millions of dollars, acquire it, circumstances, in the political relations of the two countries, may easily be imagined, which would make the possession of that territory by her a matter of immense importance to us. With New-Brunswick and Nova-Scotia on the east, Canada on the north and northwest, (excepting a few degrees on the Rocky Mountains,) and Texas on the west, she would as completely environ the United States, as the natives of the east do her East Indian possessions, and would require us to keep up, at least, as large a force for our own defence against her, as she does against them. She would even more completely encompass us, if the ocean were now her own, as she used once to call it. We have no need of looking to future events, the past are sufficient to illustrate the local value of Texas to either power in case of another controversy between them. If the rendezvous of Gen. Packenham's army, the last war, had been in Texas, instead of Jamaica, it requires no prophet from the

grave to tell us what would have been the result of the campaign against New-Orleans. As it was the fear that Louisiana would fall into the hands of his great maritime enemy, that induced Bonaparte to offer it to the United States, which it was his policy to strengthen as the commercial rival of Britain; so it should be our policy to prevent the Texas from becoming one of her provinces.—It was probably with these views in part, that the ministers to Mexico, of both the last and present administration of the United States, have been instructed to negotiate on the subject of the purchase of Texas, should Mexico be willing to sell it. The disposition to cede this territory to us, it seems the Government of Mexico does not possess; but in case a cession of it should become necessary to attain funds for its exhausted treasury, Great Britain would most probably be favored with the offer of it in preference to the United States; and there are many reasons for supposing she is now negotiating for it.

While the stability of the government of either of these powers, as it might seem to some, would give a greater value to local possessions in Texas, yet it can hardly be supposed that the jealousy of either power will permit a quiet cession of it to the other, and such is our view of the policy of Texas itself, if that is to govern, (and surely the voice of the people should have some influence upon the decision,) *the Colonist of Texas should not desire it.* The reasons are few and simple upon which this opinion is founded. In the first place, were Texas to become British, it would be like her other American possessions, a colony instead of a state. It would be dependent on her for rulers and laws, and would be governed by the political policy and commercial monopoly of its Step-Mother, instead of its own. Should the United States acquire it, all the advantages it now possesses by the liberal settlement laws and tariff protecting policy of Mexico, would be lost to it; the progress of population would be impeded by placing the minimum price of its lands on a footing with those of the United States, and all the produce of its soil and manufactures, which have now the markets of Mexico open to it, *duty free*, would be subject to the payment of the same duties in those markets as those of any other foreign country. The effect of this would be to turn the produce of Texas from the markets of Matamoros, Tampico, and Vera Cruz, where corn sells at \$5 a barrel, to New-Orleans, where it fetches less than one, and to cause a reduction in the value of other articles of export in the same proportion. They must be blind indeed who wish a change attended with such consequences.

Another reason why a cession of Texas is not desirable to its inhabitants, arises from their condition under its present government. They are perfectly contented with it; they desire no better—it is a free republic like that of the United States, the people choose their own rulers and make their own laws, and those laws exempt them from duties upon all goods imported for their own use, and from all taxes for the support of government for ten years from their settlement. What more can they desire? and if they did, we know not to what government they can look with a prospect of attaining it.

The history of parties in Mexico, since her independence, is also full of satisfactory reflections to her new colonist. It shows first the overthrow of despotism in the person of Iturbide, and the establishment of a Federal Representative Republic in its stead. This has existed unshaken for six years, not with the quietness of the United States, under the administration of Washington, to be sure, but with much the same rivalry of political parties as arose in the United States during that early period. It was attributed to the ECOSSES that they arrived at an increase of the Federal power, in the same manner as it was ascribed to the Ultra Federalists of Washington and Adams' administration and that the YAKINS held similar views to the old republican party of Jefferson and Madison. These parties have alternately had the power there as well as here; and although when one or the other obtained the ascendancy in public opinion there, it has not waited for the constitutional period of change before it assumed the power; yet, so sensible are both the parties in Mexico, of their dependence upon public sentiment, that neither the one nor the other, *when in power*, whatever may have been their previous disposition, have ever ventured to attempt any change in the fundamental principles of the government. Every contest there, as well as in the United States, strengthens instead of weakens the Republican Constitution, which, with great wisdom, they have adopted.

Neither do the feuds of different parties in Mexico reach the Texas, or have any influence over the minds of the people there. The colony is too far off to feel the throes of political convulsion in Mexico. It is too young to be called on to pay taxes towards the support of the Federal Government, and has too thin a population to have any political weight in its affairs, should it seek it; and rising into importance, faster than any nation or country ever did before it, it is content with the advantages it possesses and the liberty it enjoys, and

will not be so unwise as to embroil itself in the intrigues and machinations of either party. The fact alone speaks volumes, that the people of Austin's Colony are Americans, used to the enjoyments, political, civil, and religious, which are enjoyed in the States from which they came, and they are contented and happy in their present condition. A writer from that colony, whose letter, of 2d Oct. to Mr. Mosely is published in the Nashville Whig, of Dec. 1, gives a beautiful description of it. He observes, "that the climate of Texas is mild, salubrious, and healthy, and is greatly favored by pleasant and refreshing sea breezes during the summer months. The whole tract of country has a gradual descent from the Red river, to within from 40 to 80 miles of the coast, and is free from marsh or lakes, even down to the sea beach." He says "there is about 70,000 acres of sugar land south of lat. 30; that extensive farms are opened, and the produce of the soil far exceeds their most sanguine expectations. A number of mills and cotton gins are in operation, and several more are building. About 1500 bales of cotton, and 80 hogshheads of sugar will be made this season. *That nine years has fully tested the value and healthiness of the country. The Government is settled on the true basis of republicanism. The constitution is formed, and the political machine goes on smoothly; and North Americans, on their arrival in this country, will be surprised to find that this government is so exactly modelled after that of the United States, that no material variation of fundamental principles is discoverable.* The new settlers are represented in the government, and enjoy every civil privilege that reasonable men could ask for. Those who are here, are satisfied, and say this is the *most munificent government they ever lived under.*" The very words of the writer are quoted, and so much more favorable is his account of the country than we have represented, that we have great reason to regret the paper containing it was not shown to us before a part of this address was in the press, as it would have saved us the trouble of collecting facts from various sources, which are all here faithfully collated by one who has *lived in Texas* four years, and is a very accurate observer and candid narrator.

The time seems now to have arrived, and the policy adopted, which Gen. Pike, upon actual observation of the country, upwards of twenty years ago, while it was subject to the iron rule of Spanish despotism, considered as necessary to its prosperity. His observation was, "that if the numerous bays and harbors of the Gulf of Mexico were opened to the

trade of the world, and a general license given to the cultivation of all the productions the country is capable of, with freedom of exportation and importation, with proper duties on foreign goods, the country would immediately become rich and powerful; and a proper stimulus would be held out to the poor to labor, when certain of finding a quick and ready sale for the productions of their plantations and manufactories. The disposition and habits of the Mexicans are peculiarly calculated for sedentary employments, and I have no doubt, if proper establishments were made, they would soon rival if not surpass the most extensive woollen, cotton, and silk manufactories of Europe, their climate being proper to raise the finest cotton in the world, and their sheep, (in the upper country) possessing all the fineness of wool, for which they are so celebrated in Spain."

The emigrant to a new country, should contemplate well the circumstances and condition in which he is likely to be placed, and prepare for it. Those that go to Galveston, should remember that this is a new country, and that so many settlers will probably arrive before a harvest sufficient for their support, as to cause suffering, without they carry a full supply of salted and other provisions with them. They should also provide themselves with the implements of trade and agriculture, remembering, that with the utmost care in providing tools and in laying in provisions, they may be obliged to resort to that precarious mode of obtaining a subsistence which game and fish afford. We wish much to avoid the evil which other colonies have sustained for want of supplies. In circumstances such as the emigrant *may* be placed in, a fish-hook or a flint, a gimblet or an awl, may be of greater value than an acre of land, and a mechanic had better leave his scrip than his grindstone behind him. Those who are now so anxious to embark with the view of getting the first choice of a location, must also carry SEEDS of all kinds of garden vegetables and grain; and apple, pear, mulberry, and other fruit seeds, and currant and grape cuttings of the best varieties. Cattle and horses may be purchased in the neighborhood at moderate prices, but it would be advisable for settlers to take down pigs for breeding, and other domestic animals of approved stock.

We trust the reader will by this time, have become fully satisfied, that there is no desire, if there were any inducement on the part of the Company, to allure the unwary nor to entrap the unsuspecting by unauthorized assertions, notwithstanding the facts which they have exhibited, so tempting to the enter-

prising emigrant, might excite an apprehension in his mind that something was concealed. It is, therefore, that having quoted our authority for every thing we have said, we now propose to publish *every grant, law, and contract in extenso*, which has come to our knowledge, to enable the colonist to form his own opinion of the legality of his title, the extent of his rights, and the nature of his duties. Much of the matter thus communicated, is repeated in the petitions and grants, and many parts of the laws relate to the settlement of *government lands not under contract to any Empresario*; but, tedious as it may seem to the reader, prolixity was thought preferable to brevity, which might have been attained with fidelity, though not without that kind of suspicion of the want of it which always attends the publication of an extract. What we possess, we open to all, and as we possess it. We disguise nothing. We urge no one. Those who reject our plan shall not be condemned for their caution, but those who accept it, shall be sure to receive our friendly efforts towards the promotion of their prosperity in the colony. But one thing the colonist must bear in mind, that none will be received as such, unless they possess and can bring the evidence the laws require, of good moral habits. Such, upon application to either of the Trustees in New-York or Boston, will receive all further detailed information relating to the progress of the settlement, which they possess. The best mode of conveyance is by vessels sailing direct to Galveston Bay; whence, by means of the rivers, the settlers may be easily transported to almost every part of the colony. Those who prefer it can go from New-Orleans to Natchitoches on the Red river, in the steam-boat, and thence by land, following the road, 50 miles, through Cantonment Jessup, to the Sabine river, the border of the colony, thence to Nacogdoches, about 60 miles further into the heart of it. When the colonists provide themselves, their passages from New-York are offered at \$7 and \$8 each, and it is expected vessels will be continually sailing from Boston and other sea ports, and returning again, if any wish to avail themselves of the opportunity for so doing. The return Cotton ships from England, France, and the North of Europe, can afford to take passengers for about double that sum.

To those who wish to take up townships, or lesser quantities for settlement, scrip will be furnished by the Trustees, on very advantageous terms, and those having scrip for a single sitio, or labor, will have the opportunity of selecting their locations as fast as the surveys, which will immediately be commenced, progress. Those who locate, must bear in mind

that by the Mexican laws, actual possession and cultivation of the land, by the number of families and within the period limited, is essential to the security of their locations, under the laws, which, while they discourage the holding of legal possession by non residents, makes the most liberal provisions for actual settlers.

Houses are erected at Galveston for the temporary accommodation of foreign families as they arrive, until they can fix on a permanent location, regarding which, the agents of the colony at Galveston will give them all necessary aid.

Any further information required by those who wish to purchase scrip, or are disposed to settle on the land, according to the laws and terms prescribed, can be obtained upon application, *post paid*, to the Trustees, Anthony Dey or George Curtis, at New-York, or William H. Sumner, at Boston.

COMPARISON OF MEASURES.

MEXICAN.		ENGLISH.
1 foot	EQUAL TO	$11\frac{1}{2}$.
1 yard or 1 vara		$33\frac{1}{3}$.
108 varas		100 yards.
1000 varas		$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 925\frac{925}{1000} \text{ or } 925 \text{ yards, } 2 \\ \text{feet, } 9\frac{1}{2} \text{ inches.} \end{array} \right.$
1000 varas square, or 1 } million square varas, is } 1 Labor, }		$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 177\frac{13}{100} \text{ acres, or about} \\ 177\frac{1}{2} \text{ acres, equal to} \\ \text{about } 17,725\frac{2}{3} \text{ rods.} \end{array} \right.$
5000 varas sq'r is 1 league,		$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 4629 \text{ yards, 1 foot, } 10\frac{2}{3} \\ \text{inches, or } 2\frac{232}{1000} \text{ miles,} \\ \text{or 2 miles, 201 rods,} \\ 12 \text{ feet, } 4\frac{2}{3} \text{ inches.} \end{array} \right.$
1 league square, or 25 } million square varas is } 1 ltho, }		$4428\frac{432}{1000} \text{ acres.}$

A Township of 4 sitios is $17,713\frac{608}{1000}$ acres, English.

An American Township of 6 miles square, is 22,040 acres.

To bring Mexican measure into English, deduct $7\frac{1}{100}$ per cent.

A Mexican Township of 4 sitios, will make 100 farms of $177\frac{1}{2}$ acres, English.

To bring English measure into Mexican, add 8 per cent.

4,840 Yards make an acre, English: $5,714\frac{232}{1000}$ varas make an acre, English.

JOSEPH F. BRIDGES,

Jan. 1, 1831.

Surveyor, 173 Greene-st.



